(ii) Food Production.

543. The Department of Food Production, which was started in October 1949 was continued during the year.

544. The Schemes implemented under the Grow More Food Campaign were :—

1. Works Schemes.
2. Supply Schemes.
3. Service and Miscellaneous Schemes.

I. Works Schemes.

545. The works schemes relate mostly to irrigation works, such as sinking of irrigation wells, construction of major irrigation works, restoration of major and minor tanks, construction and improvement of river, tank, feeder channels, lift irrigation in river valley, land improvement works, including land reclamation, construction of pickup channels, etc.

546. In order to extend the area under irrigation, the scheme of construction of irrigation wells was intended to provide financial aid in the shape of subsidy to the agriculturists who intend sinking of irrigation wells. The maximum limit of subsidy sanctioned to each well was limited to Rs. 250 throughout the State, 50 percent of the subsidy being borne by the Government of India. Provision for granting a loan of Rs. 750 per well had been provided in cases where ryots apply for it.

547. *Construction of big tanks.*—Out of the several works included in the programme, most of the works had reached the stage of completion.

548. The total expenditure from 1st July 1955 to 30th June 1956 under the construction of big tanks head was Rs. 27,45,651.

549. *Restoration of tanks.*—Many of the tanks were highly silted up and required to be restored to their original capacity of storage under Food Production Drive. Restoration of these tanks such as raising the bunds and weirs, breach filling, repairs to sluices, removal of silt etc., were taken up. The total expenditure during the agricultural year was Rs. 13,84,764.

FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

550. *Extension and Improvements to river, tank and pick-up channels.*—The State has a net work of river channels serving more than 2,85,900 acres. Most of them as well as the tanks and feeder channels were in need of proper maintenance to function effectively. Out of 558 works proposed, 109 were completed and 327 works were in progress, thereby benefiting 277 acres. The total expenditure incurred from 1st July 1955 to 20th June 1956 was Rs. 11,91,693.

551. *Desilting of tanks.*—The desilting work with regard to a large number of tanks taken up during the previous year was continued during the year also.

552. *Extension of power supply to irrigation pumpsets.*—The plan in force contemplates extension of power supply for lift irrigation of 1,365 wells spread over throughout the State. Against the target of extending power to 1,365 wells, the work of installation of electric power in respect of 1,139 pumpsets was completed.

II. Supply and Services Schemes.

553. *Tractor and Bulldozer Services.*—Extensive cultivation for stepping up of food production was encouraged with the service of tractors and bulldozers. The department maintained about 127 tractors and 26 bulldozers for ploughing and reclamation work in private holdings. The Central Tractor Workshop, situated at Hebbal, was provided with necessary equipment for servicing and effecting repairs to these machines. In order to enable the ryots to bring virgin lands and such of those lands requiring reclamation under cultivation, these machines were hired out at subsidised rates.

554. *Distribution of improved varieties of seeds.*—Under Food Production Drive a systematic propaganda was launched by the technical staff of the Department of Agriculture to bring home the supreme value and importance of improved and tested varieties of seeds in increasing the yields. In order to ensure that the nucleus seeds produced in Government Farms reach every village, a large number of subsidised seed plots belonging to ryots were laid out throughout the State under the close supervision of the Agricultural Department for securing good quality of

improved strains of seed needed for bulk distribution. Improved seeds procured from these farms were distributed and the plot owners were paid a subsidy of Rs. 510 per acre for adhering to the proper production of improved seeds. They were also paid a premium of 10 per cent over the market rate for having exercised special care in producing the standard varieties of seeds. The seed was sold to ryots at cost price, the cost of transport and incidental charges being borne by Government.

555. *Preparation and distribution of manure mixture*—A planned propaganda was undertaken for the proper application of chemical manures in adequate doses and in time. Steps were also taken to popularise the increased use of superphosphate and new fertilisers like Urea, Ammonium Sulphate and Nitrate.

556. *Manufacture and Distribution of Urban Compost Scheme.*—The acreage benefited by the compost produced during the year was 16,019 and this represents an extra food production of 4,005 tons valued at Rs. 8,01,000.

557. The scheme which covers the whole State was organised through the agency of the local board institution, producing compost.

558. *Japanese method of paddy cultivation.*—With the encouraging results obtained in previous years, the scheme continued during the year also.

559. The area in which nurseries were raised comprised 5,440 acres, sufficient to transplant in about 95,882 acres.

560. *Supply of Agricultural Implements.*—The Department continued to procure the requirements of iron through the Central pool during the year and the same was distributed to the ryots through the agency of the Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies and the Departmental Depots. Implements costing Rs. 16,02,514 (Rs. 6,80,528) were supplied through the several distributing centres to the cultivators.

561. The target of additional production fixed under the Five Year Plan ending with 1955-56 was only 97·5 thousand tons and the targets were exceeded considerably at the end of the year.